

THE DAILY REBEL.

Office on Market Street, over the Bank of Tennessee.

CHATTANOOGA:
THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 26, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

We have received files of Northern newspapers from Cincinnati, St. Louis and Nashville, up to the 20th inst. The "latest intelligence" reported in the telegraphic columns of these is about as stale and stupid, as that which we publish ourselves every morning in the same department of the Rebel. Things political, now that the elections are over, and the first fever of speculation has abated, seem to be coming to quite a passive and uninteresting condition as the movements of the military; and as for foreign news, there is none at all.

The Nashville "Daily Dirty Onion" of the 19th, is made up pretty much of the usual array of slang, falsehood and indecency. From it, however, we learn that Ed. Cooper has been exchanged for Turner Foster, with the understanding that both parties are to be permitted to stay at home, on parole. "The gallant and heroic Gen. Rousseau" has especially delighted the editor of the "dirty onion" by his arrival in the city, "a timely event" as that individual observes. "Col. Robert Johnson, son of the great patriot and hero" is at Camp Dennison, Ohio, with his regiment, the "4th Tennessee cavalry." He is much lionized. The "dirty onion" is highly delighted that the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, will shortly be open. What will be the emotion when John Morgan tears it up again? "Brigadier General Robert Burbridge, Honorable Horace Maynard, and Reverend Wm. G. Brownlow" (we spell the names and titles in full as printed), were in Louisville on the 18th, stopping at the Galt House, and expected to start for Nashville in a few days. If Dick McCann only knew this he might stop the stage containing these hopeful worthless.

"Corruption," says the Cincinnati Gazette of the 14th, "is fearfully prevalent," and adds—

A defalcation has been discovered in the New York Custom House. The amount stolen is \$150,000, and probably \$250,000. It behoves the Government to look carefully and speedily into the affairs of officers who, from moderate salaries, are exhibiting signs of accumulating wealth. It would not require a great deal of enquiry to find such exhibitions throughout the country."

A writer from Indianapolis to the Cincinnati Commercial, under date of the 16th, first, says—

"The Union State Central Committee will on Monday issue a circular on the result of the late election in this state, showing a large fraudulent vote in the State, and that there were sixty-two thousand voters in the army at the time of the election, of whom more than three-fourths are shown to belong to the Union party; that the Democratic vote at the late election was in fifty-seven counties, larger than it was two years ago, although those same counties have 56,000 volunteers in the service; that the State has sent into the field 93,000 volunteers; yet the Democratic vote in the State is larger than it was two years ago, when all those volunteers were at home; that a number of the leading Democrats in the State sustain the Union organization. It shows clearly that the defeat of the Union party was the result of frauds and the absence of Union votes in the field."

This absurd piece of political humbug is completely smashed by the fact that a resolution was introduced by the Democrats into the Legislature to allow the soldiers to vote and was defeated, every Democratic member voting for it and every Abolitionist against.

The Louisville Journal insists that there shall be "no winter quarters this year." Several of McClellan's staff officers have been arrested, and dragged to Washington. A letter to the Indianapolis Union organ says, "if the friends of McClellan are not more prudent, they will get him into trouble, as many of his military household have done for themselves." The upper Mississippi is closed by ice. A great fire occurred in Chicago on the 18th, destroying \$500,000 worth of real estate alone. The marine preparations in the New York, Philadelphia and Washington navy yards are of the most immense character. A rail road bridge over the Long Bridge at Washington, has been completed. "Mr. Buell's case," says the correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette "does not improve on investigation. Particulars who are best informed, say he will be cashiered." Buell is another Northern Democrat. The Abolition majority in Minnesota, is reported to be 2500. In New York, gold sold on the 18th at 33c premium. English dates by the Jupiter are of minor consequence, and do not confirm any of the rumors and expectations so rife in Dixie.

A dispatch from Washington, to the New York World of the 15th, says, "Buller is to be

removed from his command of the post of New Orleans. His acts are endorsed by the government in spirit, but are too impolitic in practice."

The fortification of the mountain passes of East Tennessee is one of those subjects of internal improvement which is destined to be neglected until it is too late to remedy the evils of blindness and ignorance on the one hand, and stupid inactivity on the other. There is no region of the country which calls more manifestly and loudly for attention, by its geographical, political and military importance, as the great stretch of country which extends from Cumberland Gap to the Georgia frontier, and the line of the Tennessee River. It is not only of itself worthy of protection and defence, but it is the bulwark and sole outer guard of an extensive quarter of the cotton States—is the back entry, as it were—and the grand funnel into which gigantic railway operations and connections run. Chattanooga today holds the reins of many of the most important routes in the South, and whenever the enemy possesses it, the backbone of Upper Georgia, Southwestern Virginia, East Tennessee and North Alabama is broken. A few millions of dollars well spent, and a few weeks of active labor, we are assured by all who are acquainted with the country, would place East Tennessee in a state of perfect defence. Its narrow highland passes are capable of being, by comparatively small outlay, made as nearly impregnable as it is possible for the work of man, aided by nature, to become, against "cannon, mortar and petard." On all sides we hear complaint on this head. The approaching winter, with several months of certain security, offers us a fair opportunity and ample time to do all which is needed to be done. We earnestly invoke the attention of the press to the matter. If it is not called before Congress, it is quite sure that we can expect nothing from any other quarter.

The administration of the Department of War, from the day when Mr. Walker underwent the portfolio of office, to the hour when Gen. Randolph resigned it, has been more or less marked by error, ignorance and neglect. Mr. Walker was incompetent, because inexperienced, and added another illustration to the many failings of the profession of law attempted to be applied to the duties of a totally different sphere. Mr. Benjamin, able but corrupt, could not have been expected to have succeeded by any one who understood his character, morally and intellectually. Gen. Randolph, very decidedly the best of the three, was still wholly unequal to the duties of the position. The appointment of Mr. Seddon, another civilian of little public experience, and no great ability, offers us poor guarantees for the future as the past has given us. It seems that Mr. Davis has a strange infatuation for little men. Instead of looking broadly over the country and selecting the material for his cabinet out of the purest and ablest citizens, irrespective of all else, he has unquestionably manifested a spirit of bigoted illiberality that calls for the severest censure from all good men. We shall see, when Congress meets, an opposition to himself, his Cabinet and their measures, which must be deplored, and which could have been prevented by a wiser, a more universal, and more sagacious policy.

The City Passenger Railroad Presidents of Philadelphia, are anxious to become very wealthy. They intend to raise the fare to six cents for a single ride and eight cents for an exchange ticket. The change will take place on the 1st December. So says the Philadelphian Press.

Miss Dayton is at present the theme of great discussion in the Northern papers. She first eloped with one Maj. Phillips, whom her brother followed and shot, and since has been writing some unique letters to establish her moral character.

The Cincinnati newspapers are full of pork sales, at low prices. It would open the eyes of some of our speculators to see the list of these sales, and would make the mouths of all of us water.

We take pleasure in giving place to the following note from Miss Massengale, which fully explains itself:

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 26, 1862.
Sister Ruth: While I thank you for the notice you gave to the "card" of our mutual friend, Dr. H. Taylor, in yesterday's *Rebel*, a sense of duty to my "tableaux associates," as well as to myself, renders a slight correction necessary. The sum of two hundred dollars was not a donation from me, but a part of the proceeds of our "tableaux entertainments," as drawn from our worthy President, Mrs. Dodge Welch, at the instance of Mrs. Ella E. Newson, who applied to me, and most heartily did I approve of the disbursement. We are still holding in bank the large portion of said proceeds, and to a similar call will cheerfully respond.

Very respectfully,
LAURA J. MASSENGALE.

A female recruit was detected lately at Rochester, New York, by trying to put on her pants over her head.

Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.]

Mr. Seddon, the new Secretary of War, is not unknown to us, as he served in the House of Representatives, and in the Peace Congress, his abilities as a statesman, are already a part of history. A high toned, chivalrous nature he accepts a place in the Cabinet under stringent limitations, of which he can scarcely be ignorant; but his high-toned personal relations with the President, and the confidence of the latter in his judgment, lead us to hope that he will play an important part in the great events which are hourly impending.

The enemy hold the besieged posts of Fredericksburg, but, up to a late hour last evening, our forces were still a portion of the town itself. That a movement is to be made to retake the town is evident, and arises from the fact that our orders were issued at noon of yesterday, two nights ago, to the whole army to be ready in an engagement at any moment. We also hear of division movements, which indicate a determination to oppose the enemy's advance.

The battle of the Peninsula campaign, which is protracted in a slogging manner, makes out a very good case for McClellan, and his reasoning is based upon a very limited acquaintance with facts. For example, he says that when Jackson came to Lee, McClellan was between two armies, each equal to his own. But not more than a week ago, the same paper confessed that the official statement showed that Lee had 100,000 men, while Jackson had 40,000 men. No doubt, McClellan sought to produce this impression in the mind not only of the Prince but of his whole army; while the truth is he never had full confidence in the quality of his troops. He preferred to die at blood as possible. He was killed by a grand man, and would have done so if his arm had not been weakened. No doubt, McClellan sought to produce this impression in the mind not only of the Prince but of his whole army; while the truth is he never had full confidence in the quality of his troops. He preferred to die at blood as possible. 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